



# TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of  
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222  
Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

[www.MVFF.org](http://www.MVFF.org)

June

2021

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Tale Waters Edited by Jim Hulsey — [newsletter@mvff.org](mailto:newsletter@mvff.org)

## Meetings

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Club will hold no in-person meetings until September. See President's Corner for details.

## President's Corner

David Carmichael

### Club News



The club board of directors held a board meeting via Zoom on May 6, and several developments deserve mention. We recognize that most club members have been very patient in postponing their access to the lease during the pandemic. Additionally, the lease has not been stocked since fall of 2019, so the few reports we've received from locals indicate that the fishing has been spotty. Therefore, we decided to stock the lease this month, despite the likelihood that many of the fish will be lost during high water conditions if the monsoons occur on schedule during the late summer. We will probably do a second round of stocking in the fall, but the June 3<sup>rd</sup> stocking will provide some immediate opportunities for members who have been itching to get on the water. Much of the lease currently has shallow runs with limited holding structure, so the

decision was made to stock fewer but larger trout in the few areas of deeper water. We will be releasing about 100 trout in the 12-14-inch range.

Barring any spread of new COVID variants, the board is committed to resuming our regularly scheduled, in-person club meetings in the fall. However, there are still some concerns about vaccination rates, and we don't yet know whether the NMGF classroom will be available, or under what conditions. Therefore, it was decided that our first meeting in the fall should be an outdoor gathering involving a casting event and cookout. Time and place to be determined, but it will be on a weekend afternoon, probably at a park where we can use grills. I will set up the Fly Fishing International (FFI) bronze level challenge that was demonstrated by Molly Semenik a couple of years ago, and members can cast for accuracy, distance and good form. Our plan is to resume regular indoor club meetings with guest speakers in October. Look for details in future newsletters.

Dillen brought a friend to the board meeting, and as sometimes happens, he was nominated and approved as our newest board member. Welcome to Taylor Gobble, who was also designated as our new board vice-president. Taylor was born and raised in Las Cruces, graduated from NMSU in 2014, and has been working as a financial advisor ever since. He is attracted to fly angling because of the skill required, and to the MVFF club as a way to encourage folks to get outdoors. You can drop Taylor a line by using the email link in the club board members list. It's great to have several new faces on the board this year.

### TU Story on Gila Trout

Last month's newsletter contained a great article by Jeff Arterburn on the efforts of Trout Unlimited,

MVFF, and several government agencies to restore Gila trout habitat and populations in Willow Creek in the Gila National Forest. These efforts are gaining some attention, as indicated by a recent article and video featuring Jeff, along with Jim Brooks (USFWS) and Jill Wick (NMGF) ([Little water and big hopes | Trout Unlimited](#)). Daniel Ritz, writing for Trout Unlimited, is documenting his efforts to meet the Western Native Trout Challenge, by earning the Advanced or Expert Caster certificate. The Expert certificate requires an angler to document the catch and release of 12 different trout species across 8 western states ([https://westernnativetroutchallenge.org/rules-of-engage-](https://westernnativetroutchallenge.org/rules-of-engage-ment/)

[ment/](#)), so catching a Gila trout was on his to-do list. The ultimate purpose of the native trout challenge is to raise funds (from entry fees) and awareness of the diversity of native trout species, and the difficulties in conserving

them. As anglers learn about and pursue a variety of native trout species, they will hopefully become effective ambassadors for their conservation. Since 2006, the Western Native Trout initiative has directed the expenditure of \$38 million for conservation projects involving 1,400 miles of native trout habitat. Check out the video for an update on the recent developments at the Willow Creek project area.

### New Forest Fire Research

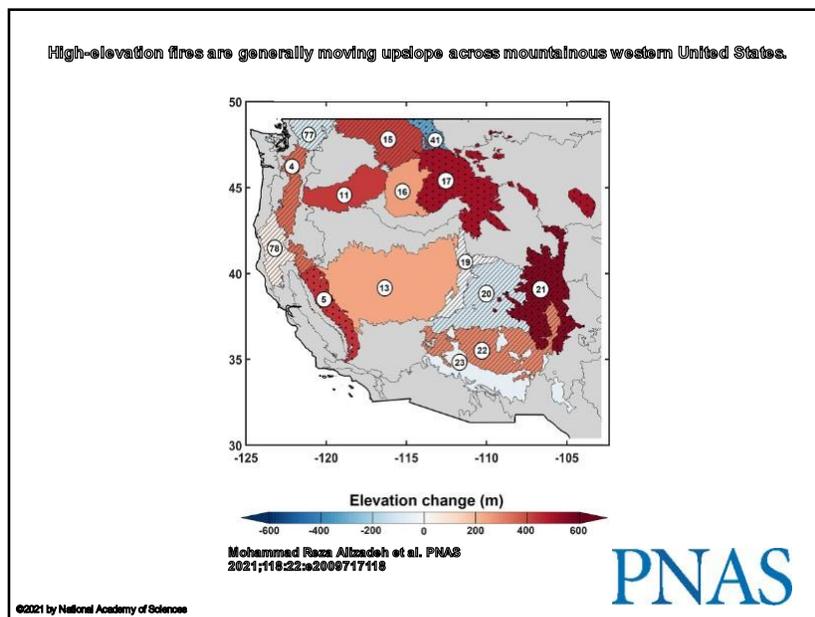
A recent study by a team led by researchers at McGill University summarizes new data on the expansion of forest fires in response to climate change. Specifically, they document the increasing tendency for forests to burn at higher

elevations than in the past, especially areas above 2,000 meters (8,200 ft) in elevation ([Western fires are burning higher in the mountains at unprecedented rates in a clear sign of climate change \(theconversation.com\)](#)). Between 1984 and 2017, there has been an average increase of 825 ft in the upper elevation of forest fires all across the western U. S. (see PNAS figure). The Southern Rockies region (#21 in the map) has shown the greatest increase of all, a whopping 1,800 ft., and the Gila/Mogollon Rim (#22) is not far behind. This means that climate change is drying the higher elevation forests and meadows, making them more susceptible to fires, whereas their

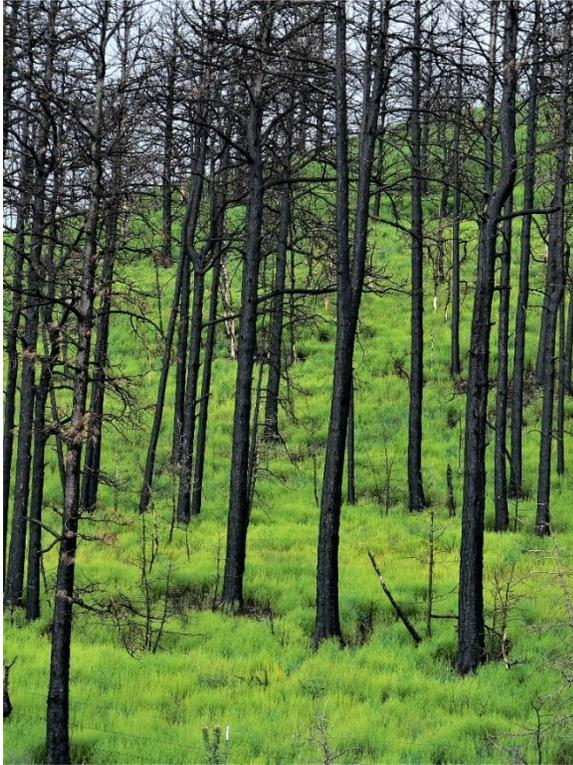
moisture would have protected them in the past. Examples of recent fires in these higher elevations in our general region include the Whitewater Baldy fire at 10,895 ft, and the recent Three Rivers fire in elevations between 8,000 and

10,800 ft. in the area northwest of Ski Apache. The increased fire susceptibility at high elevations is of concern for anglers because large, intense fires in those areas degrade the headwaters habitat and threaten trout conservation efforts.

The fire season is already well underway in our region, with 9 active fires in New Mexico, most of which are in the southwestern portion of the state. They include 3 in the Gila National Forest, 2 on the Mogollon Rim on the border with Arizona, and one in the Guadalupe Mts. [[Active Fire Mapping Program \(nwcg.gov\)](#)] As club members venture out public lands across the Southwest this summer, I hope everyone plays safe and stays safe; none of the causes of the current fires have been



determined, so it is quite possible that some were the result of human carelessness, rather than lightning strikes.



*Area of forest burned by the 2012 Little Bear fire north of Ruidoso that has yet to see recovery of tree species.*

### Getting Back on the Water

Anglers all over the country are anxious to get back on the water and get back to fishing. In some states, folks have been fishing all the way through the pandemic, hopefully in places where travel restrictions were looser than New Mexico. In fact, about 100,000 new anglers bought licenses during the past year, representing significant growth in our sport ([Trouts Fly Fishing | Cold Hard Truths Part III: Post Pandemic...](#)). Whether all those new anglers will continue fishing after access to their previous activities is restored remains to be seen, but surely many new anglers will be joining us, and seeking out places of solitude in the great outdoors. Although I would not agree that we are in post-pandemic times just yet, the folks at Trouts Fly Fishing have provided a guide to etiquette and ethics that should be useful to new members as well as those of us who have been at it for a while. One of the hardest

messages to embrace may be learning to be satisfied while catching fewer fish, especially during the summer when water temperatures increase. I was on the Peñasco earlier this week, and the water temperature was 65 degrees on an overcast day. When the temperatures get over 68, it's worth considering whether catching more trout is worth endangering their recovery and long-term health. I recommend getting and using a thermometer, and seeking out the deeper and cooler water on whichever river you're fishing during the summer.

### Diversions, the Good Kind

Fly Fishers International (FFI) has announced that their annual International Fly Fishing Expo will be a virtual event this year, running from November 5–7, 2021. [[Join Us for the Fly Fishing Event of the Year \(mailchi.mp\)](#)] The event will include workshops, classes and presentations on all aspects of fly fishing, as well as conservation efforts from around the world. Even though we are doing pretty well with COVID vaccinations in our region, such is not the case in most of the world, especially in remote, less developed countries where many anglers travel abroad. This will be the first time the event will be made available online, so those of us who might have been interested but couldn't travel to attend the event in person can now see the content via the Internet. Check out the link for content details, and save the dates.



*Ahh... the joys of a quiet day on the river...*

This time of year, it is always good to have a few different stonefly imitations in your fly box. There are some decent populations of stoneflies upstream of the club lease on the Peñasco, and I was glad I had some Prince nymphs the last time I fished there. Copper Johns are good too,

especially in red and purple. But if you're looking for something that will really sink quickly, and will show a little different look to the fish, you might want to try tying a few of the new molded nymph head Stonefly Prince by Flymen Fishing Company. They make great tying kits with clear instructions and enough materials to tie a handful of the pattern. Check out the new pattern here:

[\(Fly Tying Kit Tutorial: Nymph-Head Stonefly Prince - Flymen Fishing Company\)](#).

Now, go catch some trout!



## Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited

Jeff Arterburn, President



**GRG-TU for MVFF June 2021**

TU is offering free annual memberships, and you can read more about the program at this link:

<https://www.tu.org/conservation/outreach-education/trout-unlimited-service-partnership/>

If you would like to be involved in initiating and leading a program for southern NM through our chapter, or just want to participate please come forward and get involved.

### **GRG-TU Logo T-shirts to support local trout restoration and conservation efforts.**

Our beautiful T-shirts with the GRG-TU logo in colors: green-on-ivory, and peanut-butter-on-black are sold as part of our fund-raising for trout restoration and conservation efforts. These are great looking, well-made shirts for a great cause at only \$20 each. Please include \$5 for shipping if you want the shirt(s) mailed. Contact Jeff Arterburn to get yours, and to sign up for the next volunteer event: <mailto:jeffgilatu@aol.com>.



Green logo on ivory



Peanut butter logo on black

If you are a current or former TU member looking to renew your membership please use the standard renewal form on the TU website: <https://www.tu.org/trout-unlimited-3/> or call 1-800-834-2419.



## MVFF Library

MVFF has a considerable library which is now in the custody of Club member Mark Dankel. Mark would like to make these books available to members. If you wish to borrow any of these books let Mark know and he will bring them to the next membership meeting. Mark can be contacted at [mpdankel@msn.com](mailto:mpdankel@msn.com).

A list of the books can be found in the November 2019 issue of *Tale Waters*.



## For Sale — Fly Fishing Rods & Reels

With my eyesight getting worse, I am getting rid of all my fly fishing paraphernalia. I have sold all the fly tying materials but, still have an assortment of 5 rods and 7 reels and a lot of flies. If you have a need for such give me a call and we can discuss your requirements. I'll get them together in the garage so we won't be cooped up in the house, and you can look them over.

Call me at (575) 644-1427 — Karen Erickson



### Stocking the Rio Peñasco

Photos from the stocking of the Lease on 3 June 2021. Approximately 100 rainbow trout, 12- 14-inches in length, were stocked. Plans are to do a larger stocking later this fall after the water cools.



## MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 6, 2021

Submitted by David Carmichael

Meeting was called to order by David Carmichael at 7:00 pm, via Zoom. Board members present were Robert Ardovino, Jeff Arterburn, David Carmichael, Chuck Mueller, Jim Hulsey, Dillen Martinez and Helen Zagona. Sitting in was Dillen's guest, Taylor Gobble.

1. Approval of minutes. The minutes of the most recent board meeting, January 28, 2021, as published in the February 2021 newsletter, were approved.
2. Announcements. David announced that Michael Miller, a new graduate student in the NMSU Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology program, is the latest recipient of the Mabie Legacy Scholarship, in the amount of \$750. It was also explained that the changes in the name and the amount of the scholarship that were made by the board in 2019 have somehow been overlooked by some of the staff of the NMSU Foundation. Copies of the relevant paperwork were emailed to the foundation, and ongoing email correspondence will hopefully resolve the issue.
3. Treasurer's report. Chuck Mueller presented the treasurer's report. Current balance of the club account is \$12,656.38. To date, club members have donated, and Chuck has transmitted to Andy Ellett, \$2,309.94 for the Sidney Ellett Fund. Report was approved as submitted.
4. Membership report. The club currently has 300 paid members.
5. Gila/Rio Grande Chapter, Trout Unlimited. Chapter president Jeff Arterburn reported on the successful annual spring volunteer stream habitat survey on Willow Creek conducted from April 30 to May 2, 2021. Yvette Paroz, leader of the Southwest Regional Fish Program of the U.S. Forest Service, made a surprise visit to Willow Creek during the survey and presented project leaders with the USFS Innovation Award, "Thinking Outside the Box." Copies of the award were presented to Trout Unlimited, USFS, NMED, and the MVFF. The work at Willow Creek will continue for the foreseeable future, so there will be plenty of volunteering opportunities for club members going forward.
6. American Fisheries Society. Dillen will reach out to the club to see who the contact person is, and whether the current membership wants to reestablish their relationship with the MVFF.
7. New Business.
  - lease stocking. The board members spent quite a bit of time discussing the water levels on the lease, concerns about increasing water temperatures going into summer, when to stock, where to stock, and how many fish to stock. It was noted that club members have generally been pretty patient about not fishing the lease during the pandemic, and it was agreed that at least some fish should be stocked soon, followed by another stocking later in the year after the monsoon rains and the return of cooler water temperatures. If they are available, we will attempt to stock about 100 trout in the 14 inch+ size range, and hopefully the trout will thin the chub population. Bob Silver will contact Bill Parker to see what he has available.
  - resuming meetings of the general membership, and other club activities. The board is committed to resuming club activities in the fall, but there is still some concern about COVID-19. Also, we don't know if the NMGF classroom will be available, or what sorts of restrictions might be imposed on use of the space. Therefore, Helen suggested that the first meeting could be outdoors, involving a fly-casting contest and cookout; the rest of the board agreed that this is a good idea. David agreed to set up and oversee the FFI casting challenge for the event. Dillen and David will research the availability of parks and other venues, and whether or not food handlers' rules might impact our plans if the event is held on the NMSU campus. It was agreed that we will plan to resume regular indoor meetings next October, and that proof of COVID vaccination will be required to attend those meetings. David will reach out to potential speakers, such as Pat Dorsey, who had been slated to be the speaker at our annual banquet that was cancelled this past winter.
  - officer and committee transitions. After some discussion, it was agreed that Helen will take over the reins as treasurer from Chuck in August, so that the transition is complete by the time we restart meetings and other club activities in September. David will finish out the current year as president and Chuck will take over as president next year. Bob Silver has agreed to continue as membership chair for another year. Those of us who are doing officers' or committee chair jobs need to write out detailed instructions indicating what we do, and how we do it, for those who will fill the positions after us. Dillen nominated visiting club member Taylor Gobble to be on the board, and after he was accepted, he was designated as vice-president, starting immediately. He will shadow David and then Chuck, to get up to speed on board and club procedures.
  - Ft. Bliss outreach. The club has been contacted a

couple of times over the past few months about (re)starting a fly-fishing class for soldiers at Ft. Bliss. David has asked them to wait until this summer because of the pandemic. In anticipation of receiving further communications after the board and many members depart on summer travel, we discussed whether to re-engage with Ft. Bliss in this fashion, who might be willing to work on such a project, and what that project might/should look like. (Previous interactions with Ft. Bliss have been frustrating because of inconsistent support and scheduling problems.) Chuck will speak with Ron Bellerose to see if he's interested. Other members

who might be interested should contact David or Chuck.

- club merchandise. The club's stock of merchandise is running low, so the board agreed we should look into making a couple of orders. David will finish revising the new logo so the embroidery will be more precise, and then Chuck will work with the staff at Hoop-T-Dudes to generate the patch and embroidery for hats, etc. In the meantime, Chuck will reorder license plates from Able Signs, using the existing layout.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm. [↑](#)

**Quick Look Contact Information**

2021 Officers of the Club	
<b>Officers</b>	
• <b>President:</b>	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• <b>V-Pres.:</b>	Taylor Gobble
• <b>Secretary:</b>	Jeff Arterburn (575) 649-9729
• <b>Treasurer:</b>	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
<b>Board Members</b>	
• <b>Position 1:</b>	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• <b>Position 2:</b>	Helen Zagona (575) 532-5668
• <b>Position 3:</b>	Jeff Arterburn (575) 649-9729
• <b>Position 4:</b>	Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880
• <b>Position 5:</b>	Robert Ardovino (575) 589-0653
• <b>Position 6:</b>	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• <b>Position 7:</b>	George Sanders (575) 527-5536
• <b>Position 8:</b>	Dillen Martinez (505) 401-3640
<b>Newsletter &amp; Web Page Editor</b>	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	<a href="mailto:newsletter@mvff.org">newsletter@mvff.org</a>
<b>Membership Committee Chairman</b>	
• Bob Silver (575) 642-5865	<a href="mailto:membership@mvff.org">membership@mvff.org</a>

**Mabie Legacy Scholarship Fund**

The Mabie Legacy Scholarship Fund is an endowed fund at New Mexico State University which is funded by MVFF member donations. Earnings from the fund are used to provide scholarships for students at NMSU majoring in fisheries or related fields.

The scholarship recipient is selected each April by the faculty members of the NMSU Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology.

Even though the fund is endowed additions can be made to it at any time. The larger the fund, the more earnings are available for award. If you are interested in contributing please make checks out to the **NMSU Foundation** and on the "for" line of the check, identify "Mabie Legacy Scholarship Fund, for deposit only." All contributions are tax deductible. For any questions please contact one of the MVFF Officers or Board members. If you have not made a donation to the fund please give it consideration and help honor Norm and Donna Mabie.

**Current Email Addresses Needed**

Many of the email addresses in our files are not current as members change to other internet providers. These addresses will not be distributed, but will only be used to relay club information or reminders for club meetings and other club events. Please send your address changes to [membership@mvff.org](mailto:membership@mvff.org).

**Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Print**

Help support the MVFF Habitat Restoration Projects and purchase a limited edition "Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout" print. This beautiful printing of an original watercolor of our native state fish is a limited series of 150 high quality 12 x 18 prints that are numbered and signed by New Mexico artist Michelle Arterburn. The cost of each individual print is \$25.00, with the proceeds dedicated towards habitat restoration projects. If you live out of town and wish the print mailed to you please add \$5 for postage. See the MVFF website for purchase.



**\*\*\*\*\* REMEMBER \*\*\*\*\***  
**MVFF MEMBERSHIPS & NM FISHING**  
**LICENSES EXPIRE ON 31 MARCH**

### Membership Information

Membership is open to anyone who supports the activities of the club. Membership fees are shown below. Members are provided with the opportunity to attend informational monthly meetings, to purchase fishing access permits to the MVFF leased waters on the Rio Peñasco and to participate in other Club activities such as an annual awards banquet, casting clinics, fly tying classes, and Club sponsored fishing trips.

There are several options for the payment of dues. A family is defined as a club member, their spouse and all children 17 years of age or under.

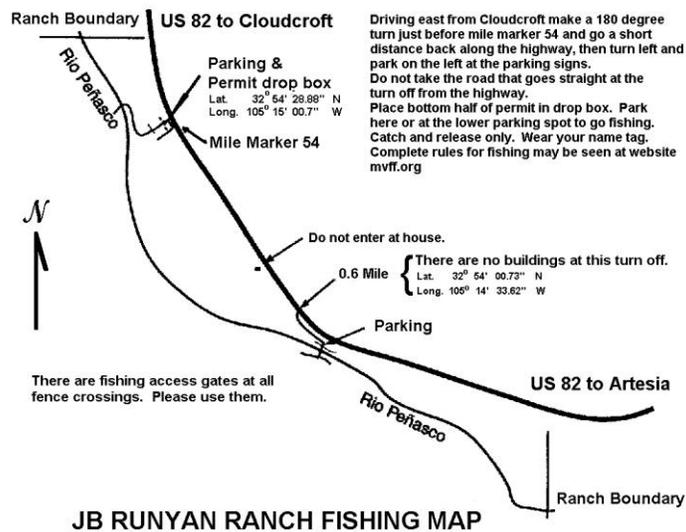
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

### Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from Jim Hulsey (575-524-1880) or Bob Silver (575-522-6325) in Las Cruces. Permits can be obtained from the land owner, but you should phone (575-687-3362) the night before to ensure someone will be there to sell them to you. Permits can be ordered through the club web page (mvff.org) by filling out the form and mailing as directed or, if you had rather, you may pay through PayPal. Cost is \$25.00 per day. Kids under 18 fish free but must be accompanied by an adult club member with a permit. You must be a current member (current dues have been paid) of MVFF to fish the lease. Please wear your MVFF identification badge while on the property. New or replacement badges can be obtained by contacting Bob Silver. In addition, members may purchase 1-day, 1-time permits for up to 2 guests per trip. Each guest must have a permit. One-time means a person can go as a guest one time only and must be a member to ever go again.

#### Directions to the Lease:

Follow NM 82 east from Cloudcroft, NM or west from Artesia, NM. The turn off to the lease is located on the right side of the road about 100 yards before mile marker 54 coming from Cloudcroft or 100 yards on the left past mile marker 54 coming from Artesia.



MESILLA VALLEY FLYFISHERS, INC.

PO Box 2222

Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

Membership and/or Permit Application

(Please Print Clearly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Work/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a current member? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Do you need a name badge? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

New Membership \_\_\_\_\_ or renewal \_\_\_\_\_?

Membership Categories: Individual Family Circle the one desired.

1 Year \$20 \$25

3 Years \$50 \$60

Life \$400 \$500

For family membership: Name of spouse \_\_\_\_\_ No. of children \_\_\_\_\_

Note: All memberships expire on 31 March. New memberships received on or after 1 January will expire on 31 March of the following year.

Membership fee if applicable \$ \_\_\_\_\_
Adult Permits @ \$25 per permit = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total =\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send remittance with this form to the address shown at top of page.